

# The Commuter

A Weekly Student Publication

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Linn-Benton Community College, Albany, Oregon

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## Sweet Home woman leaves \$378,000 to LB foundation

Dan and Daisy Ashton, who helped establish the college in the 1960s, create scholarship fund for Sweet Home High graduates

By Mary Hake  
of The Commuter

A scholarship endowment fund in excess of \$378,000 is being established in memory of Dan and Daisy Ashton to benefit graduates of Sweet Home High School.

The Sweet Home couple's assets were turned over to the LBCC Foundation following Mrs. Ashton's death on June 27, 1995, at the age of 96.

Mr. Ashton, who died in 1990, was instrumental in founding LBCC in 1966. Pat Haneberg, Sweet Home High School counselor, said that the scholarship will be a real encouragement to the students there.

Approximately 50 percent of Sweet Home graduates continue higher education, and 70-80 percent of those choose LBCC.

Foundation director George Kurtz said the college

will work closely with the Sweet Home school district to ensure that students with the greatest financial need and potential for success will be awarded the aid.

He estimated that endowment earnings will provide full tuition scholarships for 10 or more full-time students each year. The foundation plans to manage the endowment so that the principle will grow enough each year to offset the impact of inflation of tuition rates.

Haneberg said the endowment will give students the opportunity to go to college right after high school without having to take off a year to work first. Ashton scholarship recipients must reside in the Sweet Home school district. Further criteria will be determined by the scholarship committee, which plans to begin awards for the 96-97 school year. Kurtz said there will be no restrictions regarding majors.

No decision has been made yet about whether to combine the new endowment with the current Ashton scholarship established after Mr. Ashton's death.

In the mid-1960s, the Oregon Legislature decided to create seven community colleges located through-

out the state. One was to be in Salem and would include students from Albany, Lebanon, and Corvallis. Another in Eugene would draw students from Sweet Home.

Harold Dishaw, Sweet Home school superintendent, invited Dan Ashton to attend the state planning meetings and the two decided to lead an effort to establish a community college closer to home.

"It was feasible to get Benton County to go along with Linn County," said Mrs. Ashton in an interview taped by Hobert McQueary in 1991. The men presented the idea to the Linn County Chamber of Commerce, of which they were both members. The selling point was the fact that local residents would be taxed for the establishment and maintenance of a school whether it was nearby or not.

Linn County responded positively, but "it went over like a lead balloon in Corvallis," said Mrs. Ashton. Benton County finally agreed to join with the Linn County campaign, and LBCC was approved by the voters in 1966.

(Turn to 'Ashton', on page 2)

### Busy bookstore

Students line up in front of LBCC's Bookstore, waiting to buy books and other school supplies. The bookstore was very busy especially during the first week of classes. According to registrar Glenda Tepper, there are currently 7,266 registered at LBCC's main campus and centers. Enrollment is about the same as it was last year at this time.



Photo by ZachDeets

## Vocational student places second in national skills competition

By Tricia Lafrance  
Of the Commuter

Eight years ago Monroe resident Kevin MacDermott graduated from Portland State University with a bachelor's degree in computer applications to go with his associate's degree in science from Chemeketa Community College.

But he didn't have a job.

Today he is taking classes at LBCC. He's found work he enjoys, and he's winning prizes for doing it.

MacDermott placed second in the HVAC-sheet metal category at the National Leadership Conference and Skills USA Championships in Kansas City, Mo. held June 26 to July 1. Prior to that, MacDermott, who is majoring in refrigeration/heating/air-conditioning, placed first at the 1995 Oregon Vocational Industrial Clubs of America State Leadership Conference and Skills Championships at Southwestern Oregon Community College in Coos Bay in April.

MacDermott learned about the competitions through his membership in LB's Industrial Technical Society



*The project was challenging, and the competition was tough. We were competing with people from all over the United States.*

—Kevin MacDermott

Club. By finishing first in the state competition, he was eligible to compete in the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America (VICA) competition at the national level.

"We were given the layout to do the project, and we built it right there at the contest site," MacDermott said. "The project was challenging, and the competition was tough. We were competing with people from all over the United States. And the judging was also tough. The judges scrutinized every detail on everybody's project."

Students brought their own hand tools to the con-

tests, but large machines, such as a bar folder and rolling machine, were provided. About three football fields could fit inside the auditorium at the convention center, Bartell Hall, where the 57 different contests were held, MacDermott said. Students were encouraged to view other competitions in fields such as carpentry, brick-laying and cosmetology, as they completed their own projects.

The night after the competition, sponsors rented a local theme park from 8 until 11 p.m., Worlds of Fun, which has four different roller coasters, to give students an opportunity to celebrate and unwind after the contest. "By then you start worrying about what place you got," said MacDermott. "I knew I did very well, but I didn't know if I got in the top three." He had to wait until the following evening to find out.

"It was quite exciting. I was so nervous during the awards ceremony. I was sitting there fidgeting for several hours, going generally crazy. Finally a judge announced the three sheet metal finalists, in random

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## CAMPUS NEWS

## Daisy Ashton: Oregon pioneer plays role in starting LBCC

By Mary Hake  
of The Commuter

Daisy Slate Ashton was born June 15, 1899, on the Slate family Donation Land Claim on the banks of the Calapooia River south of Tangent, Oregon. Her father, Nathaniel Porter Slate, was born on the same 400 acre land claim in 1853, and lived there all his life.

Mrs. Ashton's maternal grandmother Sarah Jane Ruble travelled to Oregon by wagon train as a young widow with several children. Her husband Tom had died of cholera in Virginia. Mrs. Ruble took up her own land claim, fulfilling her husband's dream. Later, she married J. G. Clark. They lived in the Alsea area where Mrs. Ashton's mother Alice was born.

The youngest of 14 children, Mrs. Ashton enjoyed her childhood in this rural farm setting. She attended school in Tangent. Transportation problems, including poor roads, prevented rural students from attending a larger high school. Each small community had its own small high school.

Mrs. Ashton told about her experiences in an interview with Hobert McQueary in 1991. She felt she received a good education there and was well-prepared for college. She was excited when Tangent built a new school in 1912. The building had two rooms for the lower grades and two for high school. It also contained a stage and a basement with "that modern wonder" indoor plumbing.

The entire student body then consisted of less than 45 students. Four years of both math and English were required. Physics was taught, but not chemistry because there was no lab. A few electives were available, such as elementary bookkeeping. A parent volunteer served as band director. (His son later went on to play in Sousa's band.)

The students participated in plays and parties. They celebrated Mayday with a queen and court. The annual Christmas program was held in the only church in town, as were baccalaureate and graduation. They also held a Junior-Senior banquet at the school each year, bringing in cooked food since there was no kitchen. The school even had a baseball team. These extras did not cost the taxpayers anything.

All the students lived on nearby farms. There were no pregnant girls, no students smoking, and no one ever seen drinking at school. At harvest time the com-

*What's good for the community is good for me.*

-Dan Ashton

munity worked together using Mr. Slate's steam engine.

The upper Calapooia was higher then—no water had yet been taken out. The water was sparkling and clean. The Slate children often played in it. Mr. Slate built a swimming pond in their river near their home, complete with a diving board, slide, and a cable to swing on. This became a popular swimming hole.

The Slate family men were very inventive. They designed and patented equipment which benefited agriculture, construction, and manufacturing.

Mrs. Ashton graduated from the Normal School (for teachers' training) in Monmouth at age 17. She taught grades one through eight in one-room schools in both Norton and Heppner. At only 4'10" tall, some of her students were bigger than she was. She encountered no discipline problems because she was firm, said her daughter Donna Ego of Sweet Home.

Daisy and Dan Ashton were married June 4, 1922. They lived in Lebanon 16 years before moving to Sweet Home. In 1944, they bought the Santiam Feed and Seed Store there. Both of them worked running the store.

Mrs. Ashton helped establish the first Girl Scout troops in Sweet Home. She was active in Scouting for 30 years. The initial response was greater than anticipated because there was nothing else for children to do following World War II.

A charter member of Sweet Home United Methodist Church, Mrs. Ashton remained actively involved up to the time of her death. She was generous with her time said Karen Little, pastor. Mrs. Ashton was well-known for her contributions of baked goods at the annual Christmas bazaar. She ran the pie shop with "Pies by Daisy." Her tea rings were nicknamed "Daisy rings." Little also told how she was famous for her coupons, encouraging others to use and share them.

Little described Mrs. Ashton as energetic, enthusiastic, dedicated, and always willing to work. "But she was by choice low profile." She had an opinion, and was willing to share it, if asked, she said.

Mrs. Ashton served as a liaison of SHEMA, the local emergency food bank. She gave a monthly talk at

church about their needs. One of her trademarks according to Little, was asking for baby food jars for dividing food at SHEMA.

Mrs. Ashton was well-known in Sweet Home and extremely active in the community. She shared her husband's philosophy of "What's good for the community is good for me."

In 1971, the Ashtons were instrumental in establishing the Sweet Home Senior Center. Director Edyt James said Mrs. Ashton continued to visit the center at least every other day and took part in exercise classes three days a week. She also taught bridge classes, and played bridge there each Monday. She volunteered for SHEMA, weekly helping to divide and box food for the needy. She also loved gardening.

In 1989, Mrs. Ashton was given the LBCC Distinguished Service Award. In 1991, she received the Sweet Home Distinguished Service Award.

Little chuckled as she told about Mrs. Ashton driving. She was so short that she could hardly be seen behind the wheel. It looked like an unoccupied car coming down the street. She still had a special license to drive in Sweet Home. Her preplanned routes took her around town and home without having to make a left turn.

According to Little, no one will ever know how many LBCC students were personally supported by Mrs. Ashton. After their first year of studies, to provide them were serious students, she provided financial assistance.

Mrs. Ashton herself began taking classes at the college when she was nearing 70 years of age. Her daughter Donna and one grandson have also attended LBCC.

Mrs. Ashton told McQueary she was optimistic about the future except pessimistic about the timber industry. She said "We have the most beautiful state in the Union," with wonderful potential and natural resources. She said the government doesn't realize that timber is a renewable resource. The steep mountains are perfect for raising forests, not good for anything else, she said.

Mrs. Ashton remained a lifelong learner. When asked by McQueary what advice she would give young people today, she said "Get as good an education as you possibly can, keep an open mind, and never stop learning."

## Ashton funds to provide ten scholarships per year

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The first year almost 90 instructors applied to fill the 17 available positions. "They wanted to teach where kids wanted to learn," said Mrs. Ashton.

Mr. Ashton served as the first chair of the LBCC Board of Education and also served on the Foundation Board from 1972 to 1980. His photo, along with a brief personal history, hangs in the hall leading to the executive offices with other Linn-Benton distinguished citizens.

From the beginning of the college, Mrs. Ashton attended various classes. Her first one was typing because when she was in high school they didn't even have a typewriter in the building.

Mrs. Ashton remained active with the LBCC Foundation, often participating in Foundation events until her death last June. Her legacy of learning and of financial assistance will enable more students to fulfill their dreams.

## New development director to 'Ask' for money

LBCC has recently appointed Peter J. Ask to the newly created position of director of development. Ask's primary responsibilities will be to raise private funds for student scholarships and special projects and to assist in LBCC Foundation activities. He begins work Sept. 6.

LBCC President John Carnahan said, "The new position is in part a response to shrinking property tax resources and tighter state budgets for higher education. It's also because the Foundation is becoming more active in development and setting more ambitious goals. Private fund raising is an increasingly important source of support for our students and for special projects beyond the reach of our general funds."

As the new director of development, Ask brings to the college many years of development experience and start-up organizational skills in higher education and health care management.

"I'm really excited about setting up a development program for Linn-Benton," said Ask, an Albany resident for 14 years. "LBCC is a great community resource, and I'm sure the community will wholeheartedly support its students and projects." Ask added that fund raising founda-



Peter Ask

tions at four-year colleges have been able to turn to alumni, corporations and other non-tax sources for many years. "It's time to do the same for LBCC."

Ask said declining tax revenues make it imperative for community colleges like LBCC to find other sources of money, "Both to avoid raising tuition and to maintain the college's open door policy. One of my jobs with the Founda-

tion will be to educate the community, faculty and staff of the Foundation's importance in financing the program scholarships and projects that make LBCC a great place to get an education."

Before accepting the LBCC position, Ask served two years as program development coordinator for Oregon Health Sciences University, where he directed and planned development of a six-county regional health education center in southwest Oregon. He also coordinated development of legislative and fund raising strategies for the state program office and regional centers.

## commuter staff

The Commuter is the weekly student-managed newspaper for Linn-Benton Community College, financed by student fees and advertising. Opinions expressed in The Commuter do not necessarily reflect those of the LBCC administration, faculty or Associated Students of LBCC. Editorials, columns, letters and cartoons reflect the opinions of those who sign them. Readers are encouraged to use The Commuter Opinion Page to express their views on campus or community matters.

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## CAMPUS NEWS

## Benton Center undergoes facelift, becomes accessible

By Jacob Schmid  
of the Commuter

LBCC's Extended Learning Center in Corvallis is moving up in the world with the installment of an elevator, as well as some interior remodeling.

Currently, the west side of the building is closed while the shaft is being constructed. Two of the Center's restrooms are also being restructured, and some ramps are being added to make the building more accessible to handicapped students.

Dorie Nelson, Director of the Center, is pleased with the progress being made.

"We serve about 3500 students a term now, and we don't want to exclude anyone," she said. "It's a real example of teamwork in the college. A lot of departments are working together to make this possible, and everyone's excited about what this will do for the learning community."

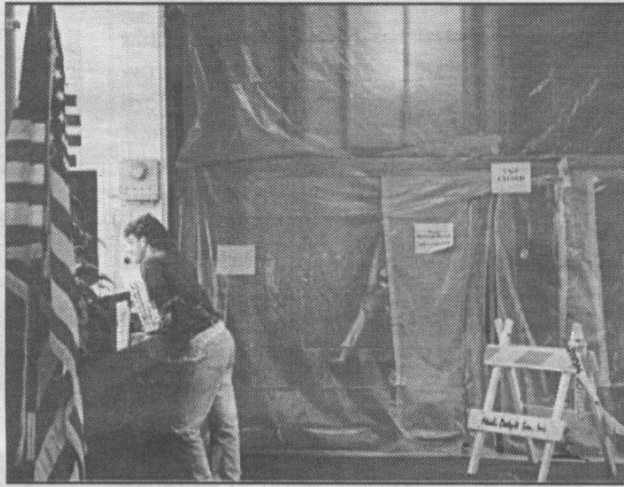


Photo by Zach Deets

Students registering at the Benton Center this term had to work their way around construction sites.

Formerly the site of Washington Elementary School, the Benton Center has been upgraded in the past. The gymnasium currently in use was added in 1954. LBCC began renting the building in 1977, and later purchased it from the Corvallis School District for \$168,000. Since then, the original kitchen was modified and two more rooms were created to house parent education and ceramics classes.

The latest remodeling will cost an estimated \$204,000, and is being funded through a recent bond levy. The project began in early July and is expected to be completed sometime in November. The contractor is Merle Doty and Son, working in conjunction with architect Paul Boundy.

"Several of the classes have had to crowd into smaller classrooms (while the construction is taking place), and it's been a little noisy, but everyone's being a good sport," Nelson said.

## Former Commuter editor taking 'virtual' expedition with AOL

By Rich Bergeman  
For The Commuter

It would be tough to do a "where are they now" story on former LBCC student Tony Lystra.

Lately, the former Commuter editor has been "Lost in America," roving the countryside in a Ford van with four other college students who are sharing their adventures with anyone who can catch up with them on America OnLine (AOL).

He is on the road and on-line, with instructions to have a ball and leave a trail of electronic picture postcards, bulletin board messages, and fan e-mail in his wake.

A Corvallis resident who attended LBCC from 1992-94, Lystra took a leave from the University of Oregon, where he is majoring in art, so he could participate in the road project. The five travelers are supposed to spend three months on the road as surrogate wanderers for AOL subscribers, who tell them where to go next.

They travel the interstate highways by day, then hole up in budget motels to cruise the information superhighway by night.

The two men and three women—all in their 20s—left Washington, D.C., Sept. 11, and have so far wandered down the East Coast to the Carolinas. This weekend Lystra was interviewed on-line by The Commuter while he hosted a chat room from a motel in Charlotte, N.C.

"We are in the unique position of posting our lives for 3.5 million viewers to criticize," Lystra said. "That's

a little scary because we don't hold a whole lot back on our entries."

The idea is to be as foot-loose and uninhibited as possible so that others can vicariously take part in the fun. Although a few postings about alcohol and parties have drawn some flack, the 21-year-old insisted that "we're not really out of control at all."

In fact, since Lystra's mother regularly checks in with her son on-line from her Corvallis home, he's not likely to get away with much.

Lost in America was the brainchild of four twenty-something entrepreneurs who started Sequence, Inc., a design company that gathered sponsors for the expedition, designed the colorful graphics, and convinced America OnLine to carry it. Lystra got invited through one of the company's founders, Steve LaVietes, who is a high school friend from Corvallis. LaVietes designed The Commuter's 1993-94 nameplate, the year Lystra was the newspaper's editor.

The others on the trip are easterners Shannon Guthrie, Kiely Sullivan, Amaani Lyle and Nick Wise. All five travelers are either college students or graduates with a flair for writing, photography and art. They are the first of a projected three Lost in America crews to be pointed west in a van and told to go where their fans send them.

"We're pretty much at the mercy of AOL members, but we're pushing for Western destinations," Lystra said, explaining that every day subscribers get to vote on potential routes they should take.

Their daily routine involves rising early so each can post diary entries, which in Lystra's case are lively essays on local history and the previous day's road adventures, complete with photographs. After drives

that sometimes cover hundreds of miles, they find a motel with good enough wiring to handle their computers and head out to explore the town.

One lesson he's learned already, Lystra said, is to always identify himself as a travel writer. "People never ask for credentials and we get killer discounts."

Every evening, the five take turns hosting a three-hour on-line chat room, where they entertain anywhere from five to 15 conversations. Last Saturday, while The Commuter conducted its interview, Lystra's chat room was visited by his mother, a boyhood friend from Corvallis, and five or six others from such diverse locations as Florida and Michigan.

To share in their adventure, AOL subscribers can use the keyword "Lost," or open the "Lost in America" folder inside the "Travel" section. The chat room opens daily at 5 p.m. Pacific time. Lystra's next chat room is scheduled for Saturday Sept. 30.

So far, the five are "getting along really well," Lystra said. "We're not bugging each other much yet."

Time may yet test their camaraderie, since they will be on the road until Dec. 11.

Lystra has earned the reputation as the muse of the expedition, garnering compliments for his sense of humor and descriptive essays. His posting from Sept. 22 included this passage from Myrtle Beach, S.C.:

"Tourists in this town drive like fools. People must reach the Myrtle Beach city limits and lose their freakin' minds. Fortunately, I had my main man Nick on the PA. Move into the slow lane. Move into the slow lane now. If you choose not to move into the slow lane, we will run you over. The fast lane is for fast cars. The slow lane is for slow cars. This has been a public announcement by Nick."



Tony Lystra

## Vocational training opens new doors

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Each of the three finalists won a Dewalt cordless drill and a set of drill bits. "It was a wonderful experience that will remember for a long time."

About 14 years ago, when MacDermott graduated from Centralia High School in Washington, he liked science but didn't have any specific goals. He went on to earn an associate's degree in science from Chemeketa Community College and a bachelor's degree in computer applications from Portland State University.

"But I didn't have experience in anything," MacDermott said. "In the computer program, you're taught a lot of theory. But you don't get any practical experience."

MacDermott started looking for a job in 1987. There were many people in the market with computer experience, so employers were not looking for people fresh out of college with no experience, he said.

"I found it tough to get interviews

and jobs. Eventually I was away from the computers for so long that they passed me by. I lost interest in the field. I worked several jobs, looking for what I wanted to do for the rest of my life."

MacDermott was working at the brick yard in Monroe when it closed down. By the time it reopened, MacDermott had decided to go back to school.

"I was looking for a career change. I decided that I needed to learn a trade that was in demand and get some credentials that I could go anywhere and get a job.

"Now I know exactly what I want to do. I checked out several different options, and this refrigeration program at LBCC appealed to me, and the work appealed to me. I think I am going to enjoy it. I wanted to do a job that I would enjoy for the rest of my life, rather than get something with high pay that I didn't enjoy. I think too many people in this world are stuck in careers they don't like, and it makes them miserable. And I don't want to be a miserable person."

## LB gets more funding from state

By Allen Lewis  
of The Commuter

LBCC will receive more funding this year, due to the Republican-controlled 1995 state Legislature's authorization of \$322 million in base budget support for community colleges.

The college is set to receive \$12,386,739 in state appropriations and \$9,810,879 in taxes, tuition, and federal revenue for the 1995-96 fiscal year. This will bring LBCC's total revenue up to \$22,197,618, which is almost \$1 million more than the 1993-94 budgeted revenue.

The Oregon Legislature allocated \$1.9 billion for higher education during the 1995-97 biennium, which was above the governor's recommended budget for instruction, operating costs, and public services.

Student Aid funds were increased by about 19% for state system higher education students, about 32% for community college students, and about 6% for aid-to-independent sector students. The state government budgets \$4,000 to \$5,000 per year for every Oregon student who attends public colleges and universities in Oregon.

## Albany library director named to college board

Ed House, Albany Public Library Director, has been appointed to replace Stuart "Corkey" Gourley on LBCC's Board of Education. Gourley resigned Aug. 31 to work in the Eugene office of State Farm Insurance.

House will be sworn in at the Sept. 27 board meeting. He will represent Zone 2-3, north and west Linn County, until June 30, 1997. House has served on the college's budget committee for the past three years.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Three artists open LB gallery for fall

LBCC's Art Gallery opens its fall season on Monday, Sept. 20, with three Oregon artists in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Bldg., room 100 LBCC Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The show will have a closing reception coinciding with Albany's second annual Friday Art Walk on Oct. 13, 6-8 p.m. The Albany Trolley will be available for a free trip to the LBCC campus for the reception. Riders may board the trolley at Flinn's Block in downtown Albany at 6:20 p.m. and arrive at LBCC's east parking lot at 6:35 p.m. Gallery visitors will have 25 minutes to see the show before the trolley returns to Albany at 7 p.m.

The three artists are Sara Krempel, a jewelry and 3-D artist from Bend; Jon Leach, an abstract acrylic painter from Roseburg; and Chuck Meitle, a watercolorist from Corvallis.

Krempel teaches jewelry, ceramics and 3-D design at Central Oregon Community college in Bend. Her work has been shown in regional and national shows in 15 states.

Krempel has a bachelor's degree in art and bachelor's and master's degrees in fine arts, all from the University of Wisconsin.

Leach relocated from the east coast to live and work in Roseburg. His bold geometric acrylic paintings are often compared to the works of Ashland printmaker Lyle Matoush.

Meitle, an engineer at Oregon State University who designs and builds research equipment, describes his water color paintings as a "vice" pursued with great passion; great enough to win an award from the Water Color Society of Oregon.

Next up in the fall gallery schedule is the acrylic and mica landscapes and aerials of William E. Shumway, Oct. 16 to Nov. 10, with a closing reception on Friday, Nov. 10, 6-8 p.m.

Instructor exhibits photos at Portland History Center

Photographs by LBCC instructor Rich Bergeman that retrace a pioneer's trail through Western Oregon to California will be exhibited at the Oregon History Center from Sept. 30 to Feb. 11.

"Views Along the Trail: James Clyman in Oregon, 1845" includes 20 photographs that illustrate the journals of James Clyman, a frontiersman who traveled from the Yamhill Valley to California in the summer of 1845 on the old Hudson's Bay pack trail, which later became part of the Applegate Trail. Excerpts from Clyman's 150-year-old journals accompany the photographs.

Although relatively unknown, Clyman was an historically significant frontiersman. One of the original Rocky Mountain trappers, he was a contemporary and compatriot of Jedediah Smith, Jim Bridger and other more celebrated mountainmen.

A man on the move most of his life, Clyman arrived in the Oregon City settlement with the 1844 wagon train when he was 53 years old, spending the winter in the Yamhill Valley. The following spring he headed south to investigate California, describing in his daily journal what he saw and experienced along the way.

Bergeman spent the past three summers retracing Clyman's southward journey, using a 90-year-old 8x10 view camera to make pictures that attempt to show the land through Clyman's eyes. The hand-coated palladium prints



"Winkle Buttes, Benton County" is one of 20 palladium prints by Rich Bergeman depicting views along the trail of a pioneer's journey through Western Oregon in 1845.

resemble the platinum process popular at the turn of the century.

An instructor of photography and journalism at LBCC since 1981, Bergeman received partial support for the project from the Linn-Benton Council for the Arts and the Portland Photographic Forum.

The exhibit will be in the Oregon History Center's Beaver Hall, which is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 12 to 5 p.m. Sunday. The center is located at 1200 SW Park Ave., across the street from the Portland Art Museum.

Writers workshop offered in Corvallis

Writers on Writing, a series of noon hour presentations, opens Thursday Sept. 28 with a poetry seminar by Clem Starck called "Writing Poetry: Word Processing, Telling Stories and Canning Fruit."

Starck has worked as a merchant seaman, a reporter on Wall Street, a ranch hand and a construction foreman. He is now a journeyman carpenter at Oregon State University. He has published in a wide variety of publications and anthologies. His recently published book: "Journeyman's Wages" is from Story Line Press. He lives in rural Oregon.

On Oct. 5 "Writing For a Multimedia World," will be presented by Henry Sayre, OSU modern and contemporary art history professor. "A World of Art," his recently published, award-winning art textbook with multimedia applications has been hailed as a "textbook of the nineties."

Both events are free from 12:15 - 1:05 p.m. at the Corvallis-Benton County Library Meeting Room. The series is sponsored by Benton Center and Corvallis-Benton County Public Library.

"THE MOST EXHILARATING AMERICAN MOVIE SINCE 'PULP FICTION!'"

- Stephen Farber, MOVIELINE

"NICOLE KIDMAN GIVES THE BEST PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR. She's this year's dead-on lock for an Oscar nomination." - Rod Lurie, KMPC-710

"NICOLE KIDMAN DELIVERS A KILLER PERFORMANCE. Van Sant deftly blends film, video interviews and headlines." - Stephen Saban, DETAILS

"THE BLACKEST, MOST WICKED COMEDY IN AGES. NICOLE KIDMAN IS AS GOOD AS SHE IS BEAUTIFUL - AND THAT'S AS GOOD AS IT GETS!" - Patrick Stoner, PBS FLICKS

"★★★★ OUTSTANDING CINEMATIC ENTERTAINMENT. DON'T MISS IT." - Paul Wunder, WBAI

"NICOLE KIDMAN IS DEVILOUSLY DELICIOUS. It is her best performance." - George Pennachio, KFMB-TV

"OUTRAGEOUSLY ENTERTAINING AND PROVOCATIVE... FUNNY, SHOCKING AND WICKEDLY PACED. NICOLE KIDMAN DELIVERS A DELICIOUSLY WITTY AND CAPTIVATING PERFORMANCE." - Bill Diehl, ABC RADIO NETWORK



NICOLE KIDMAN TO DIE FOR

All she wanted was a little attention.

COLUMBIA PICTURES Presents In Association With RANK FILM DISTRIBUTORS A LAURA ZISKIN Production A Film By GUS VAN SANT Starring: NICOLE KIDMAN "TO DIE FOR" JOAQUIN PHOENIX and MATT DILLON MUSIC BY DANNY ELFMAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JONATHAN TAPLIN and JOSEPH M. CARACCILO BASED ON THE BOOK BY JOYCE MAYNARD SCREENPLAY BY BUCK HENRY PRODUCED BY LAURA ZISKIN DIRECTED BY GUS VAN SANT SOUNDTRACK ON MUTELE SAARBRIDGE CO. COLUMBIA PICTURES DISTRIBUTED THROUGH SONY PICTURES RELEASING

Fall All Campus PICNIC

Come eat, listen to music and meet friends at the campus picnic Oct. 4 in the courtyard.

There will be a \$2-a-plate barbeque and music by Tom Morlan 11:30 to 1p.m.

The In Rec/Club will be there to offer information about the program 11:20 to 1p.m.

Questions? Contact Student Programs in CC-213 or call ext. 4458.

# SPORTS

## Roadrunners catch fire as league starts

by Jessica Sprenger  
of The Commuter

The Linn-Benton volleyball team won its first league game last Friday night as they defeated host Chemeketa 18-6, 15-11, 9-15, 15-2.

Shelly West led the Roadrunners with 21 kills and five blocks. Alesha Irish had six aces and nine kills.

"The teamwork was really good," head coach Jayme Frazier said. "We were real aggressive and we had the confidence to keep pushing them to make the mistakes."

Earlier in the week the Roadrunners opened league play with a 15-6, 15-1, 15-10 loss to Clackamas.

Even though league play has just begun, the volleyball team started playing matches in early September, when they hosted a six-team tournament.

In games played to the best two out of three, the Roadrunners opened with a 12-15, 16-14, 15-7 victory over Blue Mountain, but fell to Umpqua 15-11, 15-8 in the evening match.

On the second day the Roadrunners defeated SW Oregon 15-7, 15-11, then fell first to Chemeketa 12-15, 15-8, 15-13 and then to the tournament champions Clackamas 15-5, 15-4.

The following weekend the team was on the road, traveling to Washington to the Highline tournament, where Philomath alumni West and Shannon Rowe were named to the all-tournament team.

Despite their strong play, West and Rowe couldn't help the Roadrunners get by Chemeketa, as LB lost two games by identical scores of 15-10. Adding injury to insult, the Runners lost sophomore middle blocker Carrie Surmon to a sprained knee in the match. Playing shorthanded, LBCC was defeated 15-3, 15-8 by Walla Walla.

The Roadrunners then defeated Tacoma 15-4, 15-2 and Big Bend 15-10, 15-9 before losing to tournament champion Highline by scores of 15-9, 14-16, 15-12.

"We made a few mistakes at critical points," Frazier said. "The final game was an inspiration because it was a good team effort. We were scrappy and were picking everything up."

West finished the tournament with 34 kills, while freshman Stacey Bennett added 19. Alesha Irish, who has moved to middle blocker while Surmon is out,



Photo by Jessica Sprenger

Sophomore middle blocker Shelly West hits through the Chemeketa block during the Linn-Benton tournament.

had seven aces.

Taking a break from tournament action, the team went to Forest Grove and defeated the Pacific University junior varsity 14-16, 15-0, 15-7, 15-12. West had 13 kills and six blocks during the match. Setter Melissa Troyer had 18 assists.

Following their win, they were back in tournament action at Chemeketa in Salem, where they fell to Edmonds 11-15, 15-11, 15-11 before falling to Southern Division opponents Chemeketa 15-12, 15-13 and Lane 15-5, 10-15, 15-5.

When the Roadrunners started the season they had eight players, but now have nine since adding Cori Mika, a defensive specialist and setter. However, the team

has been hit by injuries. Surmon still has not returned to action and Melissa Troyer missed the Chemeketa tournament because of a hand injury.

"Injuries and individual family problems have caused uncertainty in the lineup," Frazier said.

New to the team this year are Mika, Rowe, Bennett, Carisa Norton and Tammy Ames. Bennett and Norton are both playing good defense, while Ames fills in as a utility player.

Linn-Benton, 1-1 in league and 6-10 overall, was to travel to SW Oregon Wednesday before starting a two-match home stand on Friday. The Roadrunners will host Mt. Hood on Friday and Lane on Saturday, both starting at 7 p.m.

### Volleyball Summaries

#### LBCC Tournament

Linn-Benton	.....	12	16	15
Blue Mountain	.....	15	14	7
Umpqua	.....	15	15	
Linn-Benton	.....	11	8	
Linn-Benton	.....	15	15	
SW Oregon	.....	7	11	
Chemeketa	.....	12	15	15
Linn-Benton	.....	15	8	13
Clackamas	.....	15	15	
Linn-Benton	.....	5	4	

#### Highline Tournament

Chemeketa	.....	15	15		
Linn-Benton	.....	10	10		
Walla Walla	.....	15	15		
Linn-Benton	.....	3	8		
Linn-Benton	.....	15	15		
Tacoma	.....	4	2		
Linn-Benton	.....	15	15		
Big Bend	.....	10	9		
Highline	.....	15	14	15	
Linn-Benton	.....	9	16	12	
Linn-Benton	.....	14	15	15	15
Pacific JV	.....	16	0	7	12

#### Chemeketa Tournament

Edmonds	.....	11	15	15
Linn-Benton	.....	15	11	11
Chemeketa	.....	15	15	
Linn-Benton	.....	12	13	
Lane	.....	15	10	15
Linn-Benton	.....	5	15	5

#### League

Linn-Benton	.....	6	1	10	
Clackamas	.....	15	15	15	
Linn-Benton	.....	18	15	9	15
Chemeketa	.....	16	11	15	2

#### Standings

Clackamas	.....	3	0	1.000	—
Mt. Hood	.....	2	0	1.000	1/2
Linn-Benton	.....	1	1	.500	1 1/2
Chemeketa	.....	1	1	.500	1 1/2
SW Oregon	.....	1	2	.333	2
Lane	.....	0	1	.000	2 1/2
Umpqua	.....	0	3	.000	3

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## DEATH OF EDUCATION

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**THESE CUTS WILL MAKE A QUARTER OF A MILLION STUDENTS UNABLE TO RECEIVE A COLLEGE EDUCATION BECAUSE THEY RELY ON FINANCIAL AID.**

To achieve a high-skilled work-force, we must invest in programs that help provide the opportunity for all people in pursuit of higher education. If realized, these budget cuts will effectively be the Death of Education for thousands of Americans. Find out how you can help prevent this tragedy.

LOOK FOR INFORMATION TABLES AT THE ALL-CAMPUS PICNIC ON OCTOBER 4, 1995.

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**STUDENT PROGRAMMING BOARD** Positions currently open for the Student Programming Board. No experience necessary. For Information go to Room CC-213 or call ext. 4457. Applications are due Oct. 13 by 2 p.m.

**HELP WANTED**

**ATTEN:** Volunteer Crisis Helpers Needed Linn-Benton crisis hotline is offering a class in crisis intervention from Tues. Oct. 31 through Sat. Nov. 18, 1995. This is a "free" no-obligation class, unless taken for credit. For more information, call 757-2299.

**Looking For Work?** Visit the LBCC Student Employment Center on the first floor of Takena Hall in the Career Center. Part-time, temporary and permanent positions are available. If you are eligible for the Federal Work Study through Financial

Aid, jobs are available on campus and at the Centers in Corvallis, Lebanon and Sweet Home. Jobs include Child Care, Food Service, Switchboard, Office Aide and Lab Aide.. For a complete list of jobs, come to the Career Center, T-101. Visit us Today!

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**First Peace Studies Program Meeting!** The agenda includes: film festival, Bosnia, Shuswap Indians, and upcoming events. We'll meet in the cafeteria on Wed. Sept. 27 at 2 p.m. Everybody welcome.

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**WHEN: SEPTEMBER 27-29.**

Wed. & Thurs. - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Fri. - 8 to 10 a.m.

**WHERE:** Outside of Student Programs, CC-210.  
Downstairs in Takena Hall.

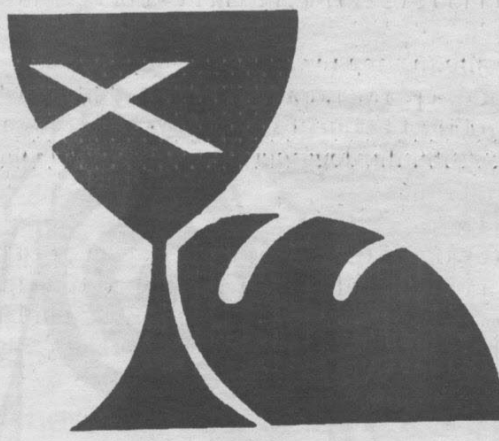
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## OPINION

## commentary

## Thoughts of an older-than-average (OTA) student

Mary Hake  
The Commuter

What am I doing here with all these kids? How will I be accepted? Can I keep up? These are not the jitters of an acned adolescent, but musings of an over-40 college student beginning time studies. Sitting in classes filled with students the age of my children and being taught by instructors who are often younger than I, forces me to assume the role of an elder associate.

To my surprise and relief, however, I realize that my old shyness and lack of confidence has slipped away to be replaced by a sense of competence. How invigorating!

When I opted to marry before my 19th birthday, I did not give up on my dream of returning to school one day. Now that my kids are in college, I have decided to join them as a full-time scholar. Enrolling at LBCC has just made it official. I never gave up learning. Life experiences and reading have provided a more-than-adequate education up to this point.

Eight-years of changes have occurred in the 20+ years since I was in high school. This high-tech world of higher education seems intimidating. You must know how to work a computer just to use the library! My memory already exhibits signs of deterioration. Will I be able to read and retain the necessary information to succeed in college? Will the courses I take really have practical application for me in the workday world? Questions, questions, ... If I can't answer my own, how will I be able to intelligently respond to an instructor's?

To my surprise and relief, however, I realize that my old shyness and lack of confidence has slipped away to be replaced by a sense of competence. How invigorating!

Now I understand why senior citizens take classes — keeps them young. I look forward to the challenge of learning, eagerly anticipating the growth of knowledge, skills, and personality. I think I am ready to begin.

How about you other Older-Than-Average (OTA) students? Why not write The Commuter and share your thoughts and experiences about returning to school?

## letters

## Grow up or go home

to the editor:

This is a new year, and I am excited what the possibilities of my fourth and final year at LBCC are going to bring. With these years, I have seen many students come and go and many different phases of student life. While walking across the upstairs seating area (edge) in Takana, I saw the tables covered with litter and leftover food.

I realize that many new students have not had the opportunity to experience the adult learning environment here at LBCC for more than a few days. I would like to encourage the observance of the value put here at LBCC on students acting like the adult learners that they are expected to be. This includes cleaning up after themselves and being generally courteous to others. This will enable the atmosphere here at LBCC to remain pleasant for all students.

It doesn't take much time, but it encourages a feeling of school pride, and personal pride associated with personal responsibility.

To those students that are new here at LBCC, welcome! I am glad that you have had the opportunity to learn at a fantastic institution. I have been very impressed both with the quality of instruction and the fiber of the student body.

Thank you for your attention.

Sarah Griffiths  
Sophomore Nursing Student



paul turner

## Small yappy dogs prove to be big trouble

It is rare that two words bring so much polarization of opinion as "small dogs." People either love 'em or hate 'em. The sight of these peewee creatures either sets your heart aflame or teeth on edge.

Unfortunately, into each life a few small dogs must fall.

My in-laws are two of the most wonderful people I have ever known. They treat me with love and respect and have always been a good thing in my life. They also possess two Chihuahuas, Tootsy and Lolly. It is a rare visit to their home when the conversation doesn't turn to how cute, loyal, cute, lovable, cute: and what great companions these cute little dogs are.

My dogs, Spot and Stupid (guess which one is the Dalmatian), tend to be of the larger variety and are also loyal, lovable, great companions, and cute when they know they are about to get busted for something. There is a certain honesty about larger dogs. When they bark threateningly, they can back it up. When the two Chihuahuas bark threateningly, the Pavlovian response is to start scheming their immediate discomfort.

Aside from loving their animals, my in-laws are far from stupid. They know the string of adjectives that race through my mind every time I see those spoiled, fat, yelping, pissing cowardly, cringing... (you get the idea) damned dogs. My in-laws enjoy awakening my never-to-be-spoken distaste when they snuggle and praise their mini-mutts in baby language — stopping just short of presenting me with the animal to hold.

So you can guess my reaction when my partner let it slip that we were dog-sitting these canine delights while her parents ran off to Reno for a few days. Before we took in the dogs, I had to swear on a stack of Gideons that I would not torment the four-legged rascals while they yelped about the house. To a disbelieving audience, I promised not to perpetrate a single mean act upon these delightful specimens.

After the expected chorus of "Yeah, rights," from my partner and the kids, I promised not to use them as bowling pins or boot brushes.

When our two miniature house guests arrived they looked at me with knowing smugness. It was as if they had sensed that my hateful ambitions had been neutered — they knew I had sworn to behave.

And they took full advantage.

When I walked into MY house, they yelped and growled. When I glared at them, they would growl louder while retreating to the nearest set of friendly

legs. From there they were picked up with a snuggle and assured that the big meany (me) wouldn't hurt them. The dogs would look at me with that arrogant smugness, knowing there were witnesses. Usually by that time, I didn't care and the good voice in my head was losing ground to the bad voice — fortunately the dog's protector of the moment would sense that and quickly get the animal out of my sight.

When the stress of life and having small dogs in my home gets to be too much, I run away for a few hours, usually to some bastion of maleness that prohibits kids and small dogs. That day it was the shooting range to vaporize discs of clay with a #8-12 gauge blast.

That morning, while the rest of the family slept, I made my Malto-O-Meal in the kitchen — with the dogs. With no allies, the dogs remained silently in their beds. I left them alone — except to laugh maniacally if one of them should think to try to beg for food. It only took once and they stayed put 'til I left for a good day at the range.

That night I had a dream. It was a clear, warm day at the range and I was hitting the clay pigeons with unusual accuracy. After awhile those fluorescent orange discs metamorphosed into porcelain Chihuahuas. Like glassy Chia-Pets they floated in slow motion over the field like something in a Gus Van Sant film. With calm satisfaction the pottery pooches drew to the end of my muzzle and...

It was a good dream.

I awoke in a good mood. When I went into the kitchen to see the dogs — sitting proudly next to a rather impressive puddle — I had to smile. The unfortunate soul who arose next, got the chore of cleaning up the puddle — and were the first to wonder why I started calling the dogs Skeeter — "Skeet" for short. If one got too close to me, I'd chant, "Pull!" and watch it scurry behind the legs of someone who still found them cute after having to clean up their puddles.

I did keep my promise. I did nothing that would have militant animal rights activist plotting my demise. After the dogs were reunited with their owners, my in-laws asked if the dogs were any trouble. I didn't get a chance to answer except for one last "Pull!"

I would end this by saying I have since embraced these animals and have learned to appreciate them. It would certainly make it much easier if the in-laws lay their hands on this. But I can't. Some forms of bigotry may never die.

## EXPRESS YOURSELF

Readers are encouraged to use The Commuter's "Opinion" pages to express their views on campus, community, and national issues. Submissions may be in the form of letters to the editor or, for topics that require deeper analysis, guest columns. Letters should be no more than 250 words, and will be edited for grammar and spelling. In order to confirm the authorship of letters, they must be signed, with phone number and address included (phone numbers and addresses will not be published). As general policy, The Commuter will not publish anonymous letters to the editor, although the editor reserves the right to make exceptions when conditions warrant. Readers who wish to submit guest columns should contact the editor in advance. All submissions can be dropped off at The Commuter office in Room 210 of the College Center.

## Barking dog leads homeowner to lion

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) —Sedgwick County Sheriff's officers said a man shot and killed a full grown African Lion that he found pacing on his driveway early today.

The incident occurred just south of Wichita and just outside the city limits of Haysville around 5:30 a.m.

Officers said when they arrived at the scene they found the lion dead.

The lion apparently had escaped from a pen in a nearby neighbor's back yard.

The resident told officers he was awakened by his dog barking and went to investigate. He saw the lion on the driveway. He told officers the animal jumped into the back of his pickup truck and appeared to be a threat to him when he shot it.



## Prisoner 'lets his hair down' to escape

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) —A man who witnesses say let down his ponytail and fashioned false breasts out of toilet paper rolls to flee a jail sentence has been ordered tried on escape charges.

District Judge William Waterman ruled Tuesday that there is enough evidence to try Tracy D. Smith, 23, of Clarkston in Oakland County Circuit Court. He faces up to two years' imprisonment if convicted.

Deputy Pontiac City Attorney Frances Finnegan testified Tuesday that she had just finished prosecuting Smith on a charge of driving with a suspended license in May 1994 when the escape occurred.

District Judge Leo Bowman had sentenced Smith to 30 days in jail and told him to sit in the jury box to wait for transportation to jail.

Smith disappeared, and Finnegan and others went looking for him.

She said she spotted a now-disguised Smith in the corridor. He had let his long hair out of a ponytail and had stuffed toilet paper rolls and a jacket into the top of his sweatshirt, she said.

"It appeared to be a woman with the hugest breasts in the world," Finnegan said. But the rolls and jacket began falling out of the sweatshirt, Smith turned his face, and Finnegan was able to recognize him.

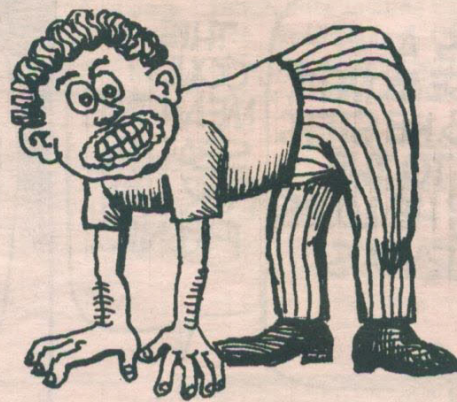
"Without a doubt" it was a man, she said. "I mean, I could see his full face and his beard, and I grabbed for him."

Smith jumped 20 feet to a stairway landing, got up and ran away.

However, a few days later, Smith returned and served his sentence.

After the testimony Tuesday, Waterman ordered Smith to stand trial. The judge also set a \$25,000 cash bond in place of a \$5,000 personal bond.

He told Smith to sit in the jury box, where the suspect waited until deputies took him to jail. He remained in custody Wednesday.



## Man bites dogcatcher

MINOT, N.D. (AP) — Minot dogcatcher Richard Schnell said he was never bitten by a dog or cat in seven years on the job. But earlier this week, he was bitten by a man.

Charles Benjamin, 32, was trying to escape from a Ward County sheriff's deputy when he bit Schnell on the thumb, according to court documents.

Benjamin was wanted by police for failing to appear at a hearing on an assault charge. Deputy Todd Keller knocked on the door of the motel room where Benjamin was staying Tuesday, but the suspect took off running.

Keller tackled Benjamin in the motel hallway. Benjamin managed to get away and Schnell, who had been nearby, wrestled Benjamin to the ground.

Benjamin bit Schnell's thumb as Schnell was putting handcuffs on him, court documents show.

"It hurt more than it bled," said Schnell, whose official title is animal warden.

He had to get a tetanus shot. "A human bite is about the worst kind, they say," Schnell said.

During a court hearing Wednesday, Benjamin spat at Northwest District Judge Glenn Dill and let loose a stream of profanities at the judge.

Dill sentenced Benjamin to five years in prison with two suspended on the assault charge. He also gave Benjamin one year in jail for preventing arrest and 30 days in jail for possession of a controlled substance. The sentences will be served at the same time.

## Neurotic man uses backhoe to make a lasting impression with uncooperative neighbor

BANGOR, Pa. (AP) —It was not exactly the Hatfields and the McCoys, but state police in Northampton County said a feud over an 8-foot-tall stockade fence erupted in violence this week.

Robert M. Johnston, 61, was arrested Tuesday after he allegedly drove a backhoe over his neighbor

CHAOS by Brian Shuster



As their intended victim drew back his trench coat, Harold and the gang realized that this time, they had messed with the wrong guy.

Edgar Heckman's fence, and then played demolition derby versus Heckman's pickup —with Heckman inside.

"I thought he was going to kill me," Heckman said.

Johnston was released on \$15,000 bail after he arraigned on charges of aggravated assault, criminal mischief, disorderly conduct and recklessly endangering another person.

Heckman said Johnston was upset because the fence "ruined his view."

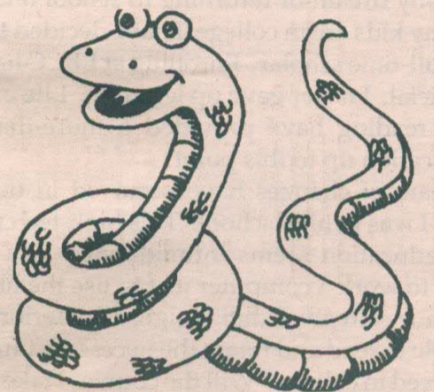
Heckman said he needs the fence because it keeps his dog in the yard.

He was awakened by a loud "p-ting, p-ting" sound at 5:45 a.m. Tuesday, looked out his window and saw the backhoe driving down the road. He jumped in his truck and followed.

"I drove around him to try to slow him down. He came up and rammed the back of my truck," Heckman said.

Police said Johnston tried to lift the truck from the road by using the backhoe's bucket, then ran over part of the truck, splitting its bed "like he was using a can opener," said Heckman's wife, Irene.

"We enjoy our privacy," she said, looking at the remains of her fence. "Now we don't have any."



## Ingenious iguana eludes police, but snake no slippery enough

LaPORTE, Ind. (AP) —Booger got loose this week and that's bad news when you're talking about a foot boa constrictor.

It happened this way: Terri Scalf was housesitting for her friend Jeff Bolinger, who was in Dallas. She was gone for a time on Monday and found the house ransacked "tipsy-turvy" when she returned.

Nothing was stolen, but then she found Booger's cage —empty.

City police officer Stephen Ames was called to the home and found Scalf and a female friend perusing on chairs. They told Ames the snake was loose in the upstairs bedroom.

The officer went upstairs and found another man, Mike Hartman, searching for the snake. Ames found it under a dresser, where it spit and struck at the men as they tried to catch it.

Whoever let the snake loose must have handled him badly, Scalf said Wednesday.

"I've never seen him that mad," she said. "Probably (Booger) was scared."

Ames and Hartman were eventually able to wrap a blanket over Booger and return him to his cage.

The LaPorte snake story comes as LaPorte authorities continue the search for an iguana missing since past three weeks.

Scott Adams said someone freed his 2-foot lizard sometime between Aug. 28 and Sept. 1.

The pet was spotted about a week ago in a tree but could not be caught, Officer Terry Scherer said Wednesday. It is probably doing well now because it eats vegetation and insects, but could look for it to come wintertime, he said.

Scherer said the lizard may seek shelter in a basement somewhere as temperatures drop.

Iguanas don't usually bite if they're raised properly, Washington Park Zoo employee Rhonda Wilson said. However, some are known to nip.

"They don't bite hard," she said. "Not nothing that's going to rip you up or anything."